

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SAIGON 15438 140800Z

16

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 140625Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1098

S E C R E T SAIGON 15438

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, PFOR, EG, VS

SUBJECT: EGYPT AIR OVERFLIGHT OF SOUTH VIETNAM

REF : (A) CAIRO 10151; (B) SAIGON 14738

1. MFA AND DIRECTORATE OF CIVIL AVIATION TELL US TECHNICAL INFORMATION REQUESTED REF B IS NOT NECESSARY BEFORE START OF OVERFLIGHTS, BUT IS STILL REQUIRED FROM EGYPT AIR AS FROM ALL CARRIERS IN ORDER TO VERIFY THAT FLIGHTS TAKE PLACE AS SCHEDULED AND IN ORDER TO ASSESS THE USUAL OVERFLIGHT CHARGES FOR USE OF NAVIGATIONAL AIDS.

2. MFA TELLS US AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL CENTER OF DIRECTORATE OF CIVIL AVIATION HAS REPORTED THAT EGYPT AIR HAS BEEN OVERFLYING RVN AIRSPACE SINCE DECEMBER 1, BUT IN ADDITION TO HONG KONG/BANGKOK FLIGHTS GVN HAD AGREED TO, FLIGHTS WERE ALSO TAKING PLACE BANGKOK/MANILA AND RETURN, AND ALSO FLIGHTS WERE TAKING PLACE ON DAYS DIFFERENT FROM THOSE AUTHORIZED. ACTUAL OVERFLIGHTS HAVE THUS BEEN SIX TIMES A WEEK INSTEAD OF AGREED THREE. MFA EXPLAINED TO US ORIGINAL REQUEST HAD BEEN FOR FLIGHTS THREE TIMES A WEEK FROM TOKYO TO EGYPT, STOPPING IN HONG KONG AND BANGKOK, OVERFLYING RVN ON SUNDAY, TUESDAY AND FRIDAY.

3. DIRECTORATE OF CIVIL AVIATION DECEMBER 8 RECEIVED A REQUEST FROM EGYPT AIR IN BANGKOK FOR APPROVAL OF SIX OVERFLIGHTS A

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WEEK: HONG KONG/BANGKOK ON WEDNESDAY AND SATURDAY, MANILA/

BANGKOK ON MONDAY, BANGKOK/HONG KONG ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY, AND BANGKOK/MANILA ON SUNDAY. MFA, TO WHICH THIS REQUEST HAS BEEN FORWARDED, COMMENTS THAT FIRST THREE FLIGHTS CAN BE CONSIDERED TO LIE WITHIN PREVIOUS AGREEMENT, SINCE THEY ARE EAST-WEST AND CAN BE ASSUMED TO BE PART OF TOKYO-EGYPT FLIGHT. HOWEVER, LATTER THREE ARE NEW AND WILL BE REFERRED TO PRIME MINISTER FOR DECISION WHERE WE HOPE THEY WILL BE APPROVED. APPARENTLY UNAUTHORIZED OVERFLIGHTS WILL BE PERMITTED TO CONTINUE PENDING THIS DECISION.

4. WE ASSUME YOU WILL WANT TO USE INFO IN PARA 1 WITH MFA, AND LEAVE IT TO YOUR DISCRETION AS TO WHETHER YOU WANT TO INFORM MFA OF SUBSTANCE PARAS 2 AND 3.
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Message Attributes

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